

basically a person can access at age 21 those records, unless the biological parents had filed a nonconsent form, that they are not consenting for that person to access those records, and so it is literally a reversal. One of the advantages of the bill, and I think as we have ironed this out over a long period of time, is that a person even if they didn't file a nonconsent form at the time the decree is established for the adoption, they have until that child is 21-years old to revoke that consent or nonconsent status that they have, so right up until the point the time the child was 21, they may or may not access it. We have put in many protections in terms of the mother, and particularly in this case, who is the...can file a situation where she is notified what to file, when to file, and so forth, and that is all part of the record that she has agreed or not agreed and, again, it is not a binding situation until the child reaches the age of 21. Once the person reaches 21, if there is not a nonconsent form filed within that record, then that person can access those records and proceed in a normal fashion. So I think it is an appropriate change in public policy. It is not a sweeping, drastic change, but I do think it does put us in a situation where we are probably more, better matched to some of the modern times. And the interesting thing is, as Senator Wesely pointed out when we were talking about the committee amendments, is that for a newborn, since there is no...it is pure prospective, that really this is not going to have any particular affect to a newborn adoptee until about the year 2009 when they reach the age of 21. So it is quite a ways into the future. It doesn't disrupt or affect any adoptions that are already established, any decrees that are out there. The only way that it would kick in before the year 2009 would be a noninfant adoptee who is 10-years old at this point and now being adopted, then we are talking the year 1999. So it is all prospective and I think it is a good piece of legislation that we have hammered out for a long, long period of time and I think we finally got something now that it will be useful for a more positive public purpose in this area.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Johanns, please, then Senator Wesely.

SENATOR JOHANNS: Mr. President and members, I will very brief. I think this is a good piece of legislation and goes a long way to doing the types of things that you want to do. My only concern is that I wish in the amendments to the bill that we had said that the adoptees, or, excuse me, the adoptive parents